

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 7, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1 has been canceled without prejudice and claims 2-3 have been amended. Applicant submits that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 2, 3 and 7-9 are pending in the present application and claims 2 and 3 are respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 3 of the present application. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct the formal matter noted in the Office Action, and therefore claims 2 and 3 are in compliance with US patent practice. Hence, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable.

In addition, Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 7-9.

Claim 1 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishino (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,537). Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice and therefore the rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 2-3 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art.

Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claims 2-3 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue along with allowed claims 7-9.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing Attorney Docket No. 100353-00069.

Respectfully submitted,



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